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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGA B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/447,658**

Applicant(s)  
**Mukogawa**

Examiner  
**Nga B. Nguyen**

Art Unit  
**3628**



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 20) ☐ Other:

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Amendment filed on April 29, 2002, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 21-41 are added. Claims 1-41 are pending in this application.

***Response to Arguments/Amendment***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vajk et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,256,033 in view of Semple et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,085,177.

Regarding to claim 1, Vajk discloses an automated financial transaction system comprising:

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a plurality of automated tellers machines (ATM), each of ATMs performing various transactions responsive to operations by customers, ATMs comprising a first ATM having a message inputs section to input a message fro a remittance destination during a remittance transaction (column 3, lines 50-60); and

a management apparatus, communicably connected with each of ATMs via an exclusive line, managing the transactions performed by each ATM (column 4, lines 50-63); and

a message depository, communicably connected with first ATM via a communications network, storing the message input by message input section of first ATM (column 16, line 30-column 17, line 5),

said first ATM sending message to message depository via communications network for storage and also sending remittance information and depository information about where said message is stored to said management apparatus via exclusive line for management purposes (column 6, lines 10-45).

Regarding to claim 2, Vajk further discloses an information terminal communicably connected with said first ATM via said communications network such that said first ATM notifies said information terminal of said depository information via communications network (column 6, lines 47-57).

Regarding to claim 3, Vajk further discloses an information terminal communicably connected with said management apparatus via said communications network such that said

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management apparatus notifies said information terminal of said depository information via said communications network (column 6, lines 58-column 7, line 2).

Regarding to claim 4, Vajk further discloses the notification of said depository information is recognized by a remittance-destination customer at said information terminal, said information terminal is responsive to a request of the remittance-destination customer to read from said message depository said message from a remittance source, based on said notified depository information, and to reproduce said message at said information terminal (column 6, lines 58-column 7, line 2).

Regarding to claim 5, Vajk further discloses the notification of said depository information is recognized by a remittance-destination customer at said information terminal, said information terminal is responsive to a request of the remittance-destination customer to read from said message depository said message from a remittance source, based on said notified depository information, and to reproduce said message at said information terminal (column 6, lines 10-20).

Regarding to claim 6, Vajk further discloses ATMs include a second ATM communicably connected with said message depository via said communications network and having a message reproducing section for reproducing said message from the remittance source which message is stored in said message depository; and wherein when said message from the remittance source is recognized by the remittance-destination customer at second ATM, said second ATM reads from said message depository information obtained from said management

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apparatus, and reproduces said message on said message reproducing section.(column 6, lines 10-45).

Regarding to claim 7, Vajk further discloses ATMs including a second ATM, wherein when said message from the remittance source is recognized by the remittance-destination customer at said second ATM, said second ATM obtains from said managements apparatus said depository information of said message from the remittance source and prints said depository information on a passbook of the remittance-destination customer and notifies the remittance-destination customer of said depository information (column 9, line 55-column 10, line 6).

Regarding to claim 8, Vajk further discloses ATMs including a second ATM, wherein when said message from the remittance source is recognized by the remittance-destination customer at said second ATM, said second ATM obtains from said management apparatus said depository information and prints said depository information on a slip addressed to the remittance-destination customer and notifies the remittance-destination customer of said depository information (column 9, line 55-column 10, line 6).

Regarding to claim 9, Vajk further discloses information terminal is communicably connected with said message depository of each said ATM via said communications network and has a message reproducing function for reproducing said message from the remittance source which message is stored in said message depository, said information terminal being operable to read from said message depository said message from the remittance source, based on said

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notified depository information, and to reproduce the read message at said information terminal (column 13, line 49-column 14, line 20).

Regarding to claim 10, Vajk further discloses information terminal is communicable connected with said message depository of each said ATM via said communications network and has a message reproducing function for reproducing said message from the remittance source which message is stored in said message depository, said information terminal being operable to read from said message depository said message from the remittance source, based on said notified depository information, and to reproduce the read message at said information terminal (column 13, line 49-column 14, line 20).

Regarding to claim 11, Vajk further discloses information terminal is communicable connected with said message depository of each said ATM via said communications network and has a message reproducing function for reproducing said message from the remittance source which message is stored in said message depository, said information terminal being operable to read from said message depository said message from the remittance source, based on said notified depository information, and to reproduce the read message at said information terminal (column 13, line 49-column 14, line 20).

Regarding to claim 12, Vajk further discloses information terminal is communicable connected with said message depository of each said ATM via said communications network and has a message reproducing function for reproducing said message from the remittance source which message is stored in said message depository, said information terminal being operable to

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read from said message depository said message from the remittance source, based on said notified depository information, and to reproduce the read message at said information terminal (column 13, line 49-column 14, line 20).

Regarding to claim 13, Vajk further discloses information terminal is communicable connected with said management apparatus via said communications network and has a remittance transacting function and a message input function for inputting a message to the remittance destination during the remittance transaction; and wherein, when a message to the remittance destination is inputted by said message input function of said information terminal in response to a customer's operation, said information terminal sends said message to said message depository via said communications network for storage and also sends remittance information and depository information of said message to said management apparatus via said communications network for management by said management apparatus (columns 14-15).

Regarding to claim 14, Vajk further discloses if the remittance transaction mail in said first ATM is for the remittance destination associated with another management apparatus which manages transactions in a unique communicating data format different from the electronic transaction format to be used by the first-named management apparatus, said first ATM sends said remittance information and said depository information of said message to said first named management apparatus via said exclusive line, whereupon said first-named management apparatus sends said remittance information and said depository information to the second-named management apparatus (column 6, lines 10-45).



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Regarding to claim 15, Vajk further discloses ATMs include a third ATM which is to be managed by said second-named management apparatus and which is communicable connected with said message depository via said public communications network and which has a message reproducing section for reproducing said message from the remittance source which is stored in said message depository; and wherein when said message from the remittance source is recognized by the remittance-destination customer at said third ATM, said third ATM reads said message from the remittance source from message depository, based on said depository information obtained from said second-named management apparatus, for reproduction thereby (column 6, lines 10-20).

Regarding to claims 16-17, Vajk further discloses message includes image data and voice data (column 10, lines 24-37 and column 7, lines 3-32).

Regarding to claim 20, Vajk further discloses message depository is a message server connected to said communications network (column 16, line 30-column 17, line 5).

Regarding to claims 1-20, Vajk does not disclose communication network is public communications network comprises Internet or Intranet (claims 18-19). However, Semple discloses the modified ATM machines in which the user can access to public communication network such as Internet (see column 4, lines 5-46). It is also well-known in the art that when the user accesses the Internet, he/she can access to electronic mail system provided by different Internet servers such as yahoo.com, hotmail.com, etc...to send or receive electronic mail message. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to modify the Vajk's ATM machines to include Internet access feature for the purpose of providing more convenient for the many users can access to the Internet at ATM machine, not just at home, to perform many Internet transaction such as using electronic mail message.

Claims 21-40 have similar limitations found in claims 1-21 as discussed above, therefore are rejected by the same rationale.

Claim 41 is method claim that is parallel the limitations found in claim 1 as discussed above, therefore, is rejected by the same rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Claims **1-41** are rejected.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (703)306-2901. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent A. Millin, can be reached on (703)308-1065.

8. **Any response to this action should be mail to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

c/o Technology Center 2700

Washington, D.C. 20231

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**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**or:**

(703) 308-5397 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,

2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington.

VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Nga B. Nguyen  
August 27, 2002



VINCENT MILLIN  
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